

Phylon

1954, Second Quarter. *The Great Decision.*—By L. D. Reddick.—Epitomises the dominant note of this number of the journal—rejoicing at the declaration of the Supreme Court of the United States that racial segregation in the public schools is unconstitutional.

Race Relations and French Visitors.—By Mercer Cook and *English Critics and Negro Writers.*—By Nancy B. Woolridge.—Both show how sensitive all (or nearly all) Americans are to European opinion.

Caste in Transition.—By Noel P. Gist.—Is a careful inquiry into the breaking down of caste in India, where “for generations it has been a stabilizing influence both for society and the individual.”

Culture Change in Guatemala.—By Morris Siegel.—Shows that parents are reluctant to educate their daughters because “formal schooling does not prepare a girl properly for her future duties as wife and mother.” The effects of the recent

revolution are of great variety—such as a startling increase of political consciousness, contraband trade and drunkenness. The influence of the Roman Catholic Church is very noticeable in the great increase of marriage, but “one further point requires mention in respect of religion, Protestant missionaries, who have lived in San Miguel Acatan for about twenty-two years, have not yet succeeded in converting a single Indian.”

The Black Knight—Part II.—By Cedric Dover.—Completes this study and tries to present the significance of the story.

Community Exclusion: A Case Study.—By Robert Lee.—Seeks to find out the exact reasons why a particular group did not want a Chinese family in their midst. Among other discoveries he found that “more biased personalities are more vociferous” and “utilize profane language to express their views.”

The number ends with the usual book reviews and is interlarded with poems which to a mere European seem queer and rather uncouth.

URSULA GRANT DUFF.

CORRESPONDENCE

Genetic Counselling

To the Editor, Eugenics Review

SIR,—Readers of the REVIEW will be interested to hear that a Genetics Clinic has been begun in the Out-Patient Department of the Maudsley Hospital. It is held weekly at 10 a.m. on Fridays, and cases may be referred, directly, from any part of the country. The problems with which we shall try to cope in this clinic are the personal issues which arise from a familial incidence of mental disorder. Most of the inquirers, if not patients themselves, will be related or betrothed or contemplating betrothal to a patient or relative of a patient; and the questions which will have to be answered will be about risks of mental illness and the advisability of marriage and procreation.

In the short time this clinic has been running, a fair number of people have already been advised; but if the existence of the clinic were more widely known, its usefulness could be greater. This is, as far as I am aware, the first such psychiatric clinic in this country. But as members of the *Society*

are well aware, Dr. C. P. Blacker provided a similar service for many years from Eccleston Square, not only to members of the *Society* but to anyone medically referred and without charge. Furthermore, the Genetics Clinic at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, has for some years dealt with similar problems in relation to physical and mental disease in children. Genetic counselling, as it is called, has recently made much progress in the United States, and is now provided at a number of centres. An extensive literature is growing up, with the accumulation of risk figures for relatives of patients suffering from a great variety of genetically distinctive conditions.

Any medical man may obtain an appointment for his patient at the Maudsley Hospital clinic by writing to the House Governor.

ELIOT SLATER.

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MESSRS. S. & H. FRETWELL LTD., 92 Fleet Street, London, E.C.4

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY THE GARDEN CITY PRESS LTD., LETCHWORTH, HERTS, ENGLAND—K 1403